



By the King.

A Proclamation against making of Starch:



Hereas vpon mature and deliberate consideration had of the manifold inconueniences occasioned, by conuerting into Starch great quantities of wheate, Flowze, Meale, and other things not fit to be spared from peoples food to serue in such an vse, and by the noysome, vnlausoury and vnwholesome stench and smells, which did corrupt the ayre and breede infections and diseases, arising from the making of Starch in vnmeet places; wee did heretofore by our Proclamation bitterly prohibite the making therof within this our Realme: And yet notwithstanding vpon credible information giuen vnto vs, that many of our pooze Subiects did liue and maintaine themselves by making of Starch; and that the same might bee made of Branne,

Hollard, and other stufte not fit for mans food, which would bee lost if not imployed in Starch: wee did giue toleration to such persons onely as should then after be licensed by our Commissioners, to make the same of Branne and Hollard or other stufte not fit for the foode of man, and in conuenient places to be also assigned by the said Commissioners, and prohibited the making of the same of wheate or other Graine, hoping thereby, conveniently to prouide for the makers thereof, and the seruice of our Kingdome therewith, without any generall prejudice in waste of Corne, or offence by annoyance, though the same were to our great losse in Customes and duties paid vpon Starch imported. And now wee are giuen to vnderstand, that sundry persons, of diuers Trades and Professions, haue presumed without any licence or authoritie at all, and in places inconuenient, to conuert into Starch diuers great quantities of wheate, Meale, and Flowze (being the maine thing wee laboured and doe still resolute and purpose to preuent) And although their offences and contempt in these kinds, might iustly prouoke vs to cause such punishment to bee inflicted vpon them as the qualitie thereof deserueth, yet wee in our Princely disposition, being inclined to preferre mercy before severity, are resolved once more to reuise our former directions touching the making of Starch, and to giue warning and notice to our louing Subiects of our Will and pleasure therein, being now fully determined, that if they shall hereafter neglect the performance of our Royall Command so often iterated and renewed, wee will henceforth take order that Justice be sharply executed vpon such contentners, as well for their offences past, as for their defaults and contempts hereafter to be committed, without shewing any further fauour or grace to the encouragement of like disobedience.


And therefore wee doe by this our present Proclamation straitly charge and command, that no person or persons whatsoever, other then such as thereunto by vs, our Heires or Successors, or by the Commissioners of vs, our Heires or Successors, shalbe licensed, authorized, or appointed, and that in such places onely, as shall be by such warrant or authority assigned or allowed, doe at any time or times hereafter, directly or indirectly, presume, attempt, or goe about to make any Starch at all. And that no person or persons to be licensed, authorized, or appointed to make Starch, shall presume, attempt, or goe about to make any Starch of wheate, Meale, Flowze, or any other stufte whatsoever fit for the food of man. And forasmuch as wee are informed, that diuers persons of wealth and ability out of a desire of gaine, doe secretly imploy great stockes and summes of money, and therewith set on worke in making of Starch, persons of little or no ability, who being questioned for their offences are ready to flie, or being found out, haue no substance or estate to yeelde any fine or other satisfaction for their misdemeanors; which wee

conceive to be one of the greatest causes, Why the abuses in making of Starch have beene so frequent, notwithstanding all former restraints. Wee doe therefore heereby prohibite and forbid all persons whatsoever; That they or any of them doe not at any time or times hereafter, vse, practise, or put in vse any such sleight or device, nor doe by any way or meane, directly, or indirectly, employ, aide, abett, assist, or incourage any person or persons in the making of any Starch, contrary to Our pleasure before heerein declared. And wee doe heereby declare all such persons which shall inable or employ others to the breach of Our Will, to be parties in and to the same, and as guilty and worthy of punishment as the Actors themselves; and wee intend to execute the like severity vpon them, as vpon the actuall breakers and contemners of Our Royall Commandement. And if any person or persons whatsoever shall attempt or presume after the publishing of this Our Proclamation, to offend or doe contrary to Our Will and pleasure heerein published, either by making or attempting to make any Starch, or by helping or assisting any other, either with meanes, Stocke, or other wise to make Starch contrary to Our Will and pleasure before heerein declared: Wee doe by these presents let them know and vnderstand, And Our Will and pleasure is, that he or they so offending, shall not onely loose and forfeite all the Starch so made and to be made, and the vessels and implements employed in making the same, of which the one halfe shall be to the partie seizing or informing our Commissioners of the same, and the other halfe, to Us, Our Heires and Successors; But also shall vndergoe the censure and severity of Our Court of Starre-Chamber, for their contempt of Our prerogative Royall in a matter of such consequence, touching the good and benefit of Our people, and shall otherwise receive such punishment as so great a contempt deserueth. And to the end Our pleasure and Command herein may bee the better effected, wee doe heereby straitly charge and command all and singular Justices of Peace, Mayors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other Our Officers and Subjects whatsoever, at all times, and from time to time, to bee aiding and assisting to such Commissioners or others, as by Us, or them shall be deputed and appointed to see this Our Ordinance executed, and carefully and diligently to see, take order, and provide, that this Our Royall Command heereby signified and expressed, be in all points duly performed: And that they doe not suffer any person or persons whatsoever (other then such as shall bee thereunto appointed, licensed, or authorized, as aforesaid) within any of their precincts, from and after the publication of this Our Proclamation, to make or cause to be made, directly or indirectly, any Starch, in any place or places within this Our Realme of England and Dominion of Wales, or Port or Towne of Barwicke, but that they doe their vttermoost power and endeavours by all lawfull meanes, to hinder and suppress the same.

And we doe further Will and command them, and doe also for Us, Our Heires and Successors, give and grant vnto them, and every of them, full power and authoritie, not onely to seize into their hands the vessels of all such persons, wherein any such Starch shalbe found to be made contrary to Our expresse Will and pleasure herein signified, and the Starch it selfe: But also that they doe cause all and every the offenders, against any part or Article of this Our Proclamation, to be bound with Sureties in good bonds to Our vse, for their appearance before Us, and Our Prinke Counsell in Our Court of Star-Chamber, there to answer their said contempts. And if they or any of them, shall refuse to enter into such bonds, then to commit every person so offending vnto prison, there to remaine untill further order by Us and Our Counsell shall be taken, for their enlargement and release.

Giuen at Our Manour of Greenwich the fift day of May, in the eighteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

 Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, and
Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

ANNO DOM. M.DC.XX.